

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /069 W
-----172156 083999 /70

P R 171957Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2497
INFO ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: HOUSE RESOLUTION CONDEMNS ARRESTS IN SOVIET UNION

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS, IN RARE
SHOW OF UNANIMITY, FEB 15 PASSED RESOLUTION EXPRESS-
ING CONCERN OVER SOVIET ARRESTS OF DISSIDENTS.
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2. IN HOUSE OF COMMONS FEB 15, FORMER MIN EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MITCHELL SHARP INTRODUCED FOLLOWING RESOLU-
TION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF
THE HOUSE.

3. QUOTE: MR. SPEAKER, I RISE ON A MATTER OF

URGENT AND PRESSING NECESSITY. CANADA WAS THE STRONGEST PROPONENT OF BASKET THREE INCORPORATED IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. AS SUCH WE HAVE REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT ARE REGARDED INTERNATIONALLY AS SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THAT AGREEMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION. I REFER IN PARTICULAR TO THE RECENT ARREST OF CERTAIN CITIZENS OF THAT COUNTRY WHO HAVE BEEN ENDEAVOURING TO ENSURE THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT AND WHO HAVE BEEN DEFENDING FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS WHENEVER THEY ARE MENACED IN THE SOVIET UNION OR ELSEWHERE.

4. FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS FOREIGN MINISTER, I AM AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS OF APPEARING TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. I AM ALSO AWARE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF SELECTING PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS FOR MENTION. SINCE THE SIGNATURE OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, SUCH MATTERS CAN NO LONGER BE REGARDED AS PURELY INTERNAL, AND THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN SPECIFIC PROTEST IS BOTH JUSTIFIED AND NECESSARY, SINCE FAILURE TO DO SO MIGHT IMPLY INDIFFERENCE.

5. ACCORDINGLY, I SEEK LEAVE TO MOVE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER 43, SECONDED BY THE HON. MEMBER FOR FUNDY-ROYAL (MR. FAIRWEATHER), AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH SUPPORT FROM ALL PARTIES: 'THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONVEY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND DEEP CONCERN OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED AT THE ARREST OF ALEXANDER GINSBERG, MYKOLA RUNDENKO, ALEXY TIKHY AND YURI ORLOV'. END QUOTE.

6. COMMENT: THIS RESOLUTION NOTEWORTHY IN TWO RESPECTS. FIRST, SUCH RESOLUTIONS ARE VERY RARELY PASSED SINCE THEY REQUIRE THE ASSENT OF EVERY MEMBER PRESENT, FROM GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION SIDES. SECOND, RESOLUTION INITIATED BY A GOVERNMENT MEMBER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER OF OPPOSITION. THIS TOO IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL AND INDICATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO GET MESSAGE ACROSS LOUD AND CLEAR. DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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